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Minutemen:

Extremist Guerrilla Warfare Group



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PREFACE

Extremist groups, masquerading under the guise of militant patriotism and vehement anticommunism, are proliferating and flourishing today as never before in our Nation's history. This monograph is a study of one such extremist group--the Minutemen.

Material contained in this monograph was compiled from both public and confidential sources.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A. Summary

The Minutemen, a vigilante group of superpatriots, claims that the United States Government has been so soft on communism that all branches and agencies of the Government have become heavily and dangerously infiltrated by communists. As a consequence, the Minutemen predicts that a communist take-over of the United States is inevitable sometime within the next 25 years.

The Minutemen regards itself as an organization of American patriots who are preparing themselves as "a last line of defense against communism." The primary purpose of this diminutive paramilitary organization is to prepare and train its members to engage in guerrilla warfare in a communist-occupied United States.

Although the size, activities, and achievements of the Minutemen have been grossly magnified since it was founded in 1960, the potential of its members for errant action and violence should not be underestimated.

B. Conclusions

1. The Minutemen is the virtual creation and "one-man show" of Robert Bolivar DePugh, who has manifested psychopathic tendencies.
2. To prepare members for guerrilla warfare in an expected communist take-over of the United States, Minutemen training

covers instructions in guerrilla tactics, combat techniques, sabotage, espionage, propaganda, and similar subjects, as well as field maneuvers.

3. Considerable quantities of arms and ammunition have been accumulated and cached by members of the Minutemen throughout the Nation.
4. The Minutemen is in the process of compiling a list of communists and communist sympathizers to be dealt with if and when a communist take-over of the United States occurs.
5. The Minutemen also engages in various anticommunist activities, including the distribution of literature and participation in political campaigns.
6. The elaborate organizational structure of the Minutemen and its system of security controls are largely fictitious.

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I. INFLATED IMAGE

The crises, tensions, and fears generated by the cold war have spawned a number of bizarre extremist groups in the United States. One of the strangest of these is a tiny, paramilitary group of rabidly anticommunist vigilantes which has assumed the name "Minutemen," after the famed minutemen of the American Revolution.

The leader and guiding light of the Minutemen since its inception five years ago has been 42-year-old Robert Bolivar DePugh, of Norborne, Missouri, who calls himself "national coordinator" and runs the organization as his "private army." DePugh has consistently exaggerated the size, activities, and accomplishments of the Minutemen since its origin.

Mainly as a result of DePugh's inflationary statements, the Minutemen has been accorded an undue amount of nation-wide publicity. This attention has had the effect of endowing this small group with the appearance of being a much larger and more formidable organization than it actually is--a Gideon's army--which is exactly the impression the Minutemen strives to create. While the Minutemen's potential for mischief and violence should not be minimized, its size and importance are vastly less than the headlines have indicated.

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II. ORIGIN AND HISTORY

The Minutemen, according to DePugh, was formed in June, 1960, when ten Missouri duck hunters--including DePugh--decided to meet regularly and exchange information on matters that would assist in their personal survival and that of their families in the event the United States was subjected to atomic attack or enemy invasion. A survival kit was assembled, and it was agreed the group would practice marksmanship and undertake training in guerrilla warfare.

Since its founding, the Minutemen, with national headquarters in Norborne, Missouri, has absorbed several similar guerrilla warfare training groups which had existed under different names. Among them were the "Minutemen of Illinois" and the "Loyal Order of Mountain Men" in the San Diego, California, area.

DePugh's Minutemen is not affiliated with any other organization, although some other groups have similar names. These include "The Minutemen Associates," of Cleveland, Ohio; "Minnesota Minutemen"; "C. B. Minutemen of Washington"; "Minute Men of the 60's," of Los Angeles, California; and "The United States Minutemen," of New Orleans, Louisiana.



ROBERT BOLIVAR DePUGH



DePUGH ON MANEUVERS

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III. AIMS AND PURPOSES

The Minutemen describes itself as "a national organization of patriotic Americans who are preparing themselves as a last line of defense against communism." Its motto is "We Will Never Surrender." The stated objectives of the Minutemen, as set forth in its recruiting literature, are:

"1. To prepare the means of personal defense and survival in case of enemy attack.

"2. To resist and expose the spread of communist influence and propaganda within our own national boundaries.

"3. To investigate, by means of our own secret memberships, the possible infiltration of communist sympathizers into American organizations of government, business, labor, religion and education.

"4. To detect and expose waste, corruption or disloyalty in any American enterprise or activity that might subvert the defense effort.

"5. To resist by all legal means the passage of laws which regulate the private ownership of fire-arms or which detract from the individual's ability to defend his own family and personal property.

"6. To promote knowledge and skill in the use of arms by our own members and by the general public.

"7. To form in advance of actual need a secret underground organization equipped to spy upon, harass and destroy troops of any foreign power that might occupy United States territory.

"8. To extend this organization, wherever possible, into other nations besieged by the threat of communist expansion or subversion.

"9. To lend assistance and support of such kinds as our own government cannot officially extend to underground organizations now operating in Cuba and other communist occupied nations.

"10. To pursue these programs as private citizens motivated only by patriotism and to remain entirely free of government subsidies or control."

Communists, according to DePugh, could conceivably gain control of the United States through (1) direct military attack and invasion, (2) rioting and revolution from within, or (3) nonviolent revolution and infiltration. The third method is regarded by DePugh as the most likely way for a communist take-over which, he predicts, will occur in 10, 20, or 25 years. DePugh contends that it is necessary for this country to alter drastically its policies toward communism, but he feels the prospects for such a change are remote.

DePugh denies that the Minutemen proposes violent action or that anyone should "grab his gun and head for the hills." He is convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt, however, that the conflict between communism and the United States will be resolved inevitably in a violent manner.

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IV. TRAINING

A. General

While the activities of the Minutemen embrace almost every form of anticommunist activity--including disseminating anticommunist literature, compiling anticommunist files, conducting public-opinion polls, and making radio broadcasts--its primary objective is the preparation of its members physically for defense against enemy occupation of the United States. To this end, most of the activities, time, and energy of the Minutemen are devoted to various types of training, such as guerrilla tactics, field maneuvers, and instruction in combat techniques.

B. Training Courses

Training courses are held at intermittent intervals in various areas of the country. The typical group consists of not more than a half-dozen persons. Training covers such subjects as weapons and supplies, survival, reading of works on guerrilla tactics by professionals of the caliber of Red China's MAO Tse-tung and Cuba's Ernesto ("Che") Guevara, and studying a primer on partisan fighting written by DePugh.

In addition to stressing military tactics identified with guerrilla activity, instructions are given in sabotage, espionage, subversion, infiltration, escape and evasion, clandestine fabrication of supplies,

counterfeiting enemy documents, recruitment, communications, propaganda, and other phases of underground activity.

A typical two-week program of a Minutemen training program includes classroom study for eight days and field maneuvers for four days. Breakfast begins at 6:30 a.m., and morning classes last from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. From 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., students "learn by doing" in carrying out various projects, such as tapping telephones, developing photographs, using microfilm and secret writing, and reloading ammunition which will later be used on the range. Evening classes last from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., and include lectures, films, and tape recordings.

After lights are extinguished at midnight, the students are usually left undisturbed. However, they may be awakened unexpectedly for an hour's "practice" resisting "enemy" interrogation.

During field maneuvers, the days are spent in rifle and pistol practice or in demonstrations of woodcraft, demolition, and the like. The evenings are utilized for practice raids, ambushes, disposing of sentries, and similar projects.

A summer training session, attended by seven male members, was held late in June, 1964, on the premises of the Minutemen's front organization--the Committee to Free Korean War Prisoners--located at 213 East Alton Street, Independence, Missouri. A 25-foot pistol range

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is located in the basement at this address. The trainees studied and lived on the premises, while adhering to strict security regulations. DePugh was in charge of the training, assisted by Al Summerford, "chairman" of the Committee to Free Korean War Prisoners.

C. Correspondence Courses

During 1964, the Minutemen emphasized the importance of training through correspondence courses, particularly for those members known only to national headquarters through the mail. By virtue of correspondence courses, Minutemen leaders feel they can determine whether or not members have sufficient basic training in security, intelligence, and other matters essential to fulfilling important functions in underground warfare.

One main assignment in such a course is reading and reporting on suitable books concerning intelligence and espionage. On completion of this course, members are supposed to be assigned to positions of leadership within the Minutemen in a manner that will use most effectively the special knowledge they have gained.

D. Youth Training

The Minutemen has given special attention to the training of youths. Over a dozen sons and daughters of Minutemen members were trained, during the Summer of 1963, in counterpropaganda techniques designed to combat "left wing influences" on their college campuses.

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In the Summer of 1964, some 100 students from colleges and universities reportedly attended six-week courses in the same counter-propaganda techniques. Classes are said to have been conducted at three locations--in the East, the Midwest, and the West. The first two weeks were devoted to a study of our "American heritage"; the next two weeks, to communist propaganda techniques; and the last two weeks, to counterpropaganda.

As a result of Minutemen youth training, DePugh has observed, Minutemen teen-agers are already well trained in weaponry, and his 12-year-old daughter is "a pretty good shot" after two years of rifle practice.

E. Field Maneuvers

In the latter part of 1961, small squads of Minutemen reportedly held field maneuvers in southern Illinois and in the San Diego, California, area. Maneuvers involved no more than a few dozen persons in each instance. Guerrilla warfare seminars were also conducted in Newark, New Jersey; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Columbus, Ohio; Kansas City, Missouri; Omaha, Nebraska; and San Antonio, Texas.

A typical field training program was held in Illinois in November, 1961. Twelve men and one woman, dressed in camouflage suits and steel helmets and armed with rifles, participated. The



DePUGH (pointing) WITH GROUP OF
MINUTEMEN ON MANEUVERS



MINUTEMAN AIMS RIFLE
FROM BEHIND TREE



MINUTEMAN DEMONSTRATES FIRING
OF MORTAR

exercise began on a foggy dawn in the Illinois countryside and lasted until about 9 a.m. DePugh and Richard Lauchli, then Midwest coordinator of the Minutemen, instructed the squad in using terrain for concealment, advancing against an enemy outpost atop a ridge, moving behind a smoke screen laid by smoke grenades, and fording a stream. A 60-millimeter mortar and a 57-millimeter recoilless rifle owned by Lauchli were carried along. The mortar was loaded with dummy shells, and the rifle was deactivated. Eleven dummy rounds were fired by Lauchli in a demonstration of rapid-fire mortar shooting.

At about the same time, a group of Minutemen, wearing Army fatigue clothes and carrying hunting rifles, camped for two days in Anza Desert State Park, California. They subsisted on roast coyote, baked lizard, cactus wrens, boiled caterpillars, and mesquite-bean coffee. They stalked one another through the desert brush, climbed cliffs, and threw Molotov cocktails made from beer bottles filled with gasoline and stuffed with rags saturated with kerosene.

During the Spring of 1963 and the Winter of 1963-1964, a small group of Minutemen held firearms training on a 200-acre ranch in the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona. Weapons were provided for those participants who did not have their own, with preference given to M-1 carbines and .38 automatic pistols. The trainees, mostly of college age, wore old Army fatigue

uniforms and caps. Two men were posted on the roof of the ranch house as lookouts during the training sessions. In addition to handling firearms, the trainees practiced knife throwing, garrotting with wire, and guerrilla warfare.

F. Combat Techniques

Extensive and explicit instructions in various phases of combat techniques have been issued to Minutemen squads. These involve precautions to be taken when participating in night patrols; what to look for on a reconnaissance mission; problems encountered in combat or demolition missions; types of explosives to be used; utilization of camouflage; first-aid techniques; construction of booby traps; and the use and care of weapons.

Explosives recommended include black and smokeless powders; highly flammable liquids, such as high-octane gasoline, naphtha, and benzene; dynamite; TNT; nitrostarch; and fuse- and electrical-type detonation caps.

Use of radio for transmitting and receiving information is stressed. It is pointed out that, while there are many forms of communications--such as runners, carrier pigeons, heliograph, signal flags, and smoke signals--radio is the most efficient and the most practical means of exchanging information. Each local Minutemen group is instructed to recruit at least one amateur radio operator or to assign one or more members to procure amateur radio licenses.

Minutemen are said to have plans to establish a series of communications networks. Where availability of equipment and personnel permits, plans call for networks to be established on a regional basis so as to be able to relay messages anywhere in the United States.

G. Tape Recordings

Early in 1964, DePugh prepared a series of tape recordings containing informal talks and mailed them to Minutemen groups throughout the country to establish rapport and esprit de corps. These recordings lasted about 20 minutes and generally discussed international communist developments.

In May, 1964, DePugh inaugurated a different series of tape recordings entitled Series "A" and Series "B." Series "A" dealt principally with the principles of guerrilla warfare and consisted of five recordings covering 20 half-hour lessons. The series was intended to be used for the indoctrination and training of new members and as a refresher course for older members. Series "B" covered the strategy and tactics of underground warfare and emphasized subversion, espionage, security, intelligence, psychological warfare, and propaganda. This series was classified "secret" and was designed for experienced members only.

H. Individual Responsibility

In addition to participating in formal training programs of the Minutemen, each member is expected to serve as an observer, reporter,

and propaganda agent. As an observer, he is to sample public opinion in his area and keep abreast of current public documents, being particularly alert for any procommunist propaganda appearing in them. As a reporter, he is to develop expert writing ability and participate in Minutemen campaigns, such as writing letters to the editor which cannot be identified with the Minutemen. As a propaganda agent, he is to be active in circulating literature, such as pamphlets, leaflets, stickers, and similar material which propagandize Minutemen views.

Each Minuteman is under instructions to fire at least 500 rounds of ammunition a year to maintain proficiency as a marksman. To gain access to rifle ranges for target practice, Minutemen, without disclosing their affiliation, organize or join gun clubs.

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V. STOCKPILING OF GUNS, AMMUNITION, AND SUPPLIES

DePugh has stated that the Minutemen as an organization does not buy or store weapons or ammunition. However, individual members are pledged to arm themselves with a firearm of one type or another and to practice with it regularly for the day when the Minutemen will have to save the country from the communists. According to DePugh, most Minutemen are limited to one firearm, a supply of ammunition, combat gear, and survival equipment. There is evidence, however, that considerable quantities of arms and ammunition far in excess of these apparent limitations have been cached by Minutemen units throughout the country.

DePugh has indicated that the Minutemen has a farm not far from Kansas City and Independence, Missouri, where a large supply of weapons and survival-type equipment is maintained. He is known to own a farm near Cross Timbers, in Hickory County, Missouri, some 100 miles south of Norborne, which he purchased under the name of Don Powell, Box 1195, Kansas City, Missouri. During the latter part of March, 1964, one of DePugh's employees transported 700 pounds of gunpowder to this farm. The gunpowder was to be used for reloading bazooka shells.

Roy Crosby, Jr., Minutemen organizer in Montana, admitted in June, 1964, that the Minutemen in that State was stockpiling guns, ammunition, and food for any emergency that might arise. According to Crosby, various

Minutemen units had stored arms, ammunition, and food in members' homes and other places. Crosby felt that each member should possess sufficient weapons, ammunition, and food for his own survival, plus enough to care for a few extra persons.

One Minuteman in Montana purchased 200 pounds of smokeless powder and 10,000 primers in July, 1964. At the same time, he placed a duplicate order for the same items. He also expressed a desire to buy a quantity of .30 caliber ammunition.

In the Fort Worth, Texas, area, a Minuteman was reported, late in 1964, to have received 10,000 rounds of .38 caliber ammunition for use in pistol practice and some 800 rounds of .30 caliber machine-gun ammunition.

A 70-year-old Minuteman in Colorado possesses at least 1,000 rounds of .308 and .22 caliber ammunition and has a cartridge reloading machine.

The monthly Minutemen newsletter, "On Target," for April 1, 1964, issued a "Warning to Patriots!" It contained specific recommendations for firearms purchases by Minutemen. For adult males, suggested arms were: .30-06 Garands; 7.62-millimeter NATO FN's; .30-06 bolt-action Springfields or Enfields; sporting rifles; and 12-gauge double-barreled, pump or automatic shotguns. Recommended

weapons for adult females were: Winchester Model 100, .308 caliber; Remington Model 742, .30-06 caliber; and .30 caliber military carbines. Suggested firearms for older children were sporting rifles in 6 millimeters, .253, .270, and .222 calibers, and, for younger children, semiautomatic .22 rifles. The owners of firearms were urged to stockpile at least 300 rounds of ammunition, in addition to 200 rounds or more for practice purposes.

VI. OTHER ACTIVITIES

A. Literature

In addition to training and stockpiling of weapons, ammunition, and supplies, the Minutemen engages in other activities, including the distribution of various types of literature. This literature includes newsletters, bulletins, posters, booklets, pamphlets, leaflets, order forms, recruiting kits and forms, application blanks, and stickers.

Minutemen literature stresses that various branches of the United States Government are infiltrated by communists and that all Federal administrations since World War II have been soft on communism. "Patriots" are exhorted to make preparations for the day of reckoning with the forces of communism.

The principal publication of the Minutemen is a well-edited, ten-page monthly newsletter entitled "On Target." Published at Norborne, Missouri, "On Target" sells for \$5 per year. It is subtitled "Words Won't Win--Action Will" and states: "We guarantee that all law suits filed against this newsletter will be settled out of court." It reportedly reaches several thousand people--nonmembers as well as members. The press run for the April 1, 1964, issue was said to have been 7,500 copies. Its policy is obviously dictated by DePugh.

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ON TARGET

Published monthly by the MINUTEMEN, P.O. Box 68, Norborne, Mo.

Subscription rate, \$5.00 per year

We guarantee that all law suits filed against this news letter will be settled out of court.

WORDS WON'T WIN - ACTION WILL

October 1, 1964

ANTI-UNITED NATIONS MONTH

Ample proof is available that the United Nations is meant to play a key role in the establishment of a communist one-world police state. The United Nations is being praised and promoted by liberals and communists of every shade. Two-thirds of the votes in the General Assembly represent ten percent of the world's population, most of whom have no knowledge whatsoever of real freedom. Yet, this international government will, under the terms advanced by our own Disarmament Agency, soon control all of our own Armed Forces.

Experience tells us that our United States post offices will soon be decorated with expensive and attractive banners promoting United Nations Day, October 24th and United Nations Week October 18th to the 24th. These posters will be printed, distributed and displayed at the expense of the American taxpayer.

Experience also causes us to predict that not a single post office anywhere in America will carry a poster proclaiming United States Flag Day, October 23rd.

The nation's news media have already committed themselves to donate over ten million dollars worth of free advertising space and time to help promote United Nations week. Over 20 million pamphlets will be distributed to the nation's school children by various organizations propagandizing in favor of the United Nations.

Our organization has just finished contacting approximately one thousand other conservative organizations and individuals asking them to cooperate in making October "Anti-United Nations Month". During this month we hope to distribute 50,000 anti-UN posters, 100,000 anti-UN pamphlets and 250,000 gummed stickers with the caption, "U.S. Forever - U.N. Never".

THE COMMITTEE TO FREE THE KOREAN WAR PRISONERS

If a history were to be written about the United Nations, one of the most disgraceful chapters would deal with the American Servicemen which were abandoned at the end of the Korean Police Action. When the Prisoner Exchange Program was completed our government admitted that over 4,000 American Servicemen captured by the North Koreans and Chinese communists were still unaccounted for. Many of these men were brutally murdered. Some had been found by our advancing troops with their hands tied behind them and a single bullet in the back of their heads. Others are believed to have died in Chinese torture chambers.

Still, after two years of investigation by the parents of missing servicemen, reasonable proof was obtained that approximately 1,000 of our servicemen were still being held prisoner by the communists. Still later our govern-

MONTHLY MINUTEMEN NEWSLETTER

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Other publications issued by the Minutemen include the "Montana Intelligence Letter," edited by Roy Crosby, Jr., Minutemen organizer in Montana, and the "Minutemen News," a monthly bulletin emanating from National headquarters in Norborne, Missouri. Beginning in January, 1965, the distribution of the latter bulletin was expanded to include all active members of the Minutemen. The December 15, 1964, issue of this bulletin contained an article captioned, "How to Bug a Room." This article furnishes instructions for installing microphones and electronic equipment so as to enable individuals to eavesdrop without being detected. Similar articles were to be carried in future issues.

The Minutemen offers numerous booklets, manuals, and pamphlets for sale. Frequently these deal with guerrilla warfare. For example, "Principles of Guerrilla Warfare" was offered at 20 cents per copy, and reprints of "Guerrilla Warfare" were advertised at a price of two for \$1. In November, 1964, the Minutemen offered a special recruiting kit for \$1. This package included: 20 large booklets entitled "The Minutemen, America's Last Line of Defense"; 200 copies of a revision of the leaflet, "Join the 'Minutemen'"; 10 application forms; and a new bulletin on successful recruiting techniques.

The Minutemen boasted that members had, over Labor Day, 1963, put up over 230,000 "Wanted" posters for Nikita Khrushchev, then Premier

of the Soviet Union. Following President Kennedy's assassination in November, 1963, the Minutemen issued stickers bearing the assertion, "A gun did NOT kill Kennedy -- A communist did."

The "Handbook for Minutemen," issued to all members, covers the following topics: "Communism and Modern Warfare," "The Cold War," "Ideological Defense against Communism," "World War III," "Personal Survival," "Strategy of Secret Warfare," "Intelligence and Security," "Propaganda," "Sabotage," "Guerrilla Warfare," "Weapons," and a "Summary of Objectives, Strategy, and Tactics."

B. Anticommunist Measures

1. Anticommunist Files and Lists

In a series of press interviews during the Summer of 1964, DePugh said that his organization had compiled "pro-Communist" files listing 67,000 communists and fellow travelers who were suspected of being members of a "hidden government" in the United States under communist control. According to DePugh, Minutemen read each issue of approximately 600 periodicals, mainly to obtain names of suspected communists and sympathizers. He said that the files were cross-indexed with those of six other "conservative" organizations.

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DePugh told the press that his organization identifies a communist or a suspected communist in the following manner:

"A person writes a certain article a certain way, or belongs to certain organizations, or signed a petition for a certain thing, such as abolishing the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

"When these begin to show a consistent pattern of following the Communist line, you have to start considering them fellow travelers, and if it continues, you have to start considering them Communists."

Some of the individuals on this list, DePugh pointed out, had been identified as a result of Minutemen infiltration of the Communist Party, USA. He added, however, "We don't trust them (the infiltrators) completely. We check, double-check, and triple-check all the information they supply us."

Individuals listed in Minutemen files, DePugh said, were being watched by the Minutemen. When asked why such a surveillance was not left to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), he replied that "no law enforcement agency can watch all the people all the time." DePugh added that "the basic duty of a patriotic American citizen is to be vigilant to protect his country in every way he can."

2. Threats and Allegations

One particularly defamatory article in the March 15, 1963, issue of "On Target" listed the names of 20 Congressmen who had voted for the abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The

Congressmen were assailed as "Judases" who "seem willing not only to sell out their country for thirty pieces of silver but to go on the record and brag about it." The names of these Congressmen were listed in a block outlined by a black border under the caption, "In Memoriam."

In a press interview in August, 1964, DePugh referred to contemplated assassinations by Minutemen. He specified that the only persons Minutemen "considered assassinating" were those known by the Minutemen to be members of the communist "hidden government" in the United States. At the time of the interview, DePugh declared that this list included about 25 or 30 persons, with another 1,500 singled out "for continual surveillance." He added that the assassinations, of course, would not occur until after the communists had gained control of the country.

During the latter part of 1964, a Minuteman is reported to have remarked that when communists take over the United States, a photograph of a Communist Party member will be furnished to each member of the Minutemen. It will then be the responsibility of each Minuteman to take steps to execute the Party member whose photograph he has been given.

A recently issued Minutemen booklet casts doubt on the loyalty of a wide range of elected officials by raising these questions: "What do you really know about the State Senator or State Representative from your district? Could any of these men have been indoctrinated in communist ideology at some time in their career or past education? There are several men who are now known Communists who once served as U. S. Senators or Representatives and were in all probability Communists all the time."

Following the election of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the November 4, 1964, issue of "On Target" opened with this averment: "The hopes of millions of Americans that the communist tide could be stopped with ballots instead of bullets have turned to dust." The article then attacks President Johnson and claims that among his closest friends is Negro leader Bayard Rustin, described by the publication as a convicted sex pervert, an intimate of high Government officials, a convicted draft dodger, an organizer of the August, 1963, March on Washington, and an identified member of the Young Communist League. *

C. Relations with Other Organizations

1. Extremist Groups

The Minutemen has had rapport with other extremist groups. In 1961, about a hundred former members of the Ku Klux Klan in Florida

* Designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

were allowed by DePugh to affiliate with his Minutemen after they had formed a vigilante group similar to the Minutemen. DePugh permitted this attachment, because, he said, he considered the former Klansmen to be loyal Americans.

A national officer of the National States Rights Party, which is dedicated to white supremacy, manifested an interest in the Minutemen in 1961. Later, an organizational meeting attended by 13 persons was held in her Little Rock, Arkansas, home. However, only one subsequent meeting was held, and plans for organizing the Minutemen in that area died a-borning.

Some leaders and members of the Minutemen have been associated with the John Birch Society (JBS), but most of them resigned or were expelled when their affiliation with the Minutemen became known to the JBS. Even DePugh belonged to the JBS, but he was dropped from membership because of his militant Minutemen activity. DePugh's explanation for his departure was that Robert Welch, founder and head of the JBS, believed that DePugh was trying to secure control of the JBS.

The Minutemen often makes favorable mention in its publications of literature issued by other "patriotic," extremist organizations and disseminates some of the literature of these groups. One state

Minutemen leader, who is not a member of the JBS, has indicated that he distributes a great deal of JBS literature.

2. National Rifle Association

Many Minutemen belong to the National Rifle Association (NRA), and all members are encouraged to join the NRA. The Minutemen supports the NRA campaign against passage of rigid firearms control legislation. In addition, Minutemen members affiliated with the NRA avail themselves of a program which, by congressional action, authorizes the Secretary of the Army to promote marksmanship among United States citizens. Under this program, adult NRA members have the privilege of purchasing arms, ammunition, targets, and similar supplies at cost through the Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship of the Department of Defense.

D. Political Activities

1. Presidential Election Campaign

During the 1964 presidential election campaign, the Minutemen planned to play an active role, both clandestinely and publicly, in support of Senator Barry Goldwater. One method, to be considered, according to DePugh, was to infiltrate President Johnson's campaign headquarters throughout the country in order to sabotage Democratic Party operations.

By working at primary levels throughout the country, the Minutemen was allegedly able to place two dozen members on State

delegations to the Republican National Convention. However, DePugh qualified his complete support of Goldwater by stating that the Senator's election would be "no panacea" for ending the communist threat to the Nation because "Liberals" would seek to thwart the new President in every possible way.

During the Summer of 1964, the Minutemen conducted two public-opinion polls. In each poll, 1,000 members reportedly telephoned enough people to contact ten registered voters. Each person called was asked how he was going to vote in the presidential election, how his spouse was going to vote, and what one thing affected their voting intentions most. According to DePugh, over 37,000 people were contacted or 25 times as many people as are contacted in a typical Gallup Poll. It was claimed that the results of the Minutemen poll showed Senator Goldwater lagging behind Johnson in popular vote by a very narrow margin, but actually running ahead in the number of electoral votes. The purpose of the poll was to determine the strategy of the Minutemen prior to the November election.

The Minutemen supported Goldwater's campaign publicly through distribution of anti-Johnson literature and publication of pro-Goldwater propaganda in "On Target." According to DePugh, several supporters of the Minutemen purchased over 450,000 copies

of "LBJ, A Political Biography," and distributed them on a house-to-house basis. Other Minutemen groups reportedly purchased and distributed 100,000 copies of "None Dare Call It Treason." DePugh stated that he personally distributed over 1,000 copies of "A Texan Looks at Lyndon."

2. Anti-United Nations Campaign

Since its beginning, the Minutemen has consistently opposed the United Nations, claiming that it is almost completely dominated by communists and is the "greatest single menace to American Freedom that we face today." DePugh proclaimed October, 1964, to be "Anti-United Nations Month," and the October, 1964, issue of "On Target" was devoted to a critical analysis of the United Nations and the allegedly wealthy people behind it.

To publicize "Anti-United Nations Month," the Minutemen prepared special packages of anti-United Nations propaganda. Among other things, these packages included: (1) 50 anti-United Nations posters; (2) 100 folders describing the "dangers of the United Nations Conspiracy"; (3) 50 folders concerning 382 American servicemen captured during the Korean War and allegedly held in Soviet and Red Chinese slave labor camps; (4) 250 stickers bearing the American Flag, the United Nations symbol, and the caption, "U. S. Forever--U. N. Never." These stickers were to be posted in public places and were part of an over-all project of the "Psychological Warfare Department" of the Minutemen.

3. Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation

The Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation made a public appeal for funds in the Fall of 1964. When letter carriers cooperated in the collection of funds, the Minutemen protested the appeal publicly in a leaflet sent to all United States Senators and Representatives, 500 postmasters, 500 newspapers, and radio and television stations.

The leaflet alleged that Mrs. Roosevelt had on many occasions supported communist causes. Therefore, it was stated, the delivery of Roosevelt Foundation material by post office employees constituted "an illegal use of public funds and facilities to promote a private organization and raise money for very questionable activities." The leaflet called for a congressional investigation, legal action against those responsible, and a full disclosure of the real promoters of this Foundation and the purposes for which the funds were to be spent.

E. Miscellaneous

1. Public Meetings

Due to the excessive secrecy of the Minutemen, public meetings are a rarity. However, one such affair was held in August, 1964, in Van Nuys, California. Some 150 people paid an admission fee of \$1 for this gathering. It was sponsored by the Southern California Freedom Council, which, according to its director, was a

group that did "intelligence work" and turned the information over to the Minutemen.

After recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner," a documentary motion picture depicting communist treatment of prisoners of war was shown. The film was said to have been prepared for former General Edwin Walker to be used in a program subsequently censored by the United States Army. Following the movie, Troy Houghton, Pacific regional director of the Minutemen, discussed the aims and purposes of the Minutemen and stressed the menace of communism to the United States. He then announced that anyone interested in the Minutemen could write to Box 5395, San Diego, California. The meeting closed with the audience singing several verses of "America the Beautiful."

2. Radio Broadcasts

In December, 1961, a radio station in Chicago, Illinois, interviewed several individuals connected with the Minutemen concerning the activities of this organization. One of the speakers on this program was Richard Lauchli, then leader of the Minutemen in the Illinois-eastern Missouri area. Early in 1964, radio broadcasts were sponsored by the Minutemen in the San Francisco, California, area.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

A. Numerical Strength

DePugh claims that the Minutemen numbers in the tens of thousands and that it is growing at a rate that will make it a guerrilla force of great strength and effectiveness in future years. He has recently placed the national membership of the Minutemen at between 20,000 and 60,000. But such statements and figures are grossly exaggerated, for DePugh has been making similar extravagant membership claims ever since the organization was founded.

Known Minutemen membership, as of March 1, 1965, was 129, with an estimated potential membership of 216. Two-thirds of the current membership is to be found in the Midwest and West, while the other third is in the South and East. As a matter of fact, the Minutemen seems to have just enough followers in various parts of the country to enable the organization to gain some dubious publicity on occasion.

According to one state Minutemen leader, DePugh counts as a member anyone who has ever shown any interest in the organization by a written request for literature, a donation, or a subscription to "On Target." DePugh stated, in April, 1964, that he had then issued

numbers to members in excess of 35,000. He admitted that he had no way of determining, after issuing a membership number, whether the individual assigned a number ever became a member of a Minutemen "band" or whether the person continued to be sympathetic to the organization.

Membership in the Minutemen is usually of short duration, resulting in a heavy turnover. A typical member was an 18-year-old youth of Utica, New York, who joined and received a membership number after sending in his application form and paying dues for three months. He then left home for college. He has not made further dues payments and has never attended any meetings or engaged in other Minutemen activity. Nevertheless, he continues to receive Minutemen literature.

B. Qualifications

Membership in the Minutemen is open to virtually anyone who is considered a loyal American and has no obvious subversive leanings or affiliations. There are no restrictions as to age, sex, or physical condition. Ages of the members range from the early teens to the early 70's. A California physician, who is over 70 years of age, joined the Minutemen to combat communism. He does nothing more than receive Minutemen literature. Even a criminal record is no bar to membership so long as the applicant appears to be a patriotic American.

Hunters, sportsmen, and gun collectors are the individuals who have evinced the greatest interest in the Minutemen and made written inquiries to its national headquarters for information. Those who join appear to share DePugh's views that the United States is rapidly and increasingly being threatened by communist infiltration and influence from within and by aggressive communist military action from without and that some drastic, positive action is urgently necessary to turn the tide.

C. Recruiting

In its efforts to attract new members, the Minutemen has run numerous classified advertisements in newspapers throughout the country and in firearms and sportsmen's magazines. One Minuteman placed an advertisement in a university newspaper in Pennsylvania. A leaflet captioned "Join the 'Minutemen'" was distributed surreptitiously in the men's dormitory of a Montana college. Stickers advertising the Minutemen were found on the mirror of a men's rest-room in an Iowa filling station.

An article in "Time" magazine for November 3, 1961, apparently precipitated considerable interest in the organization. As mentioned earlier, a Minutemen front organization called the Committee to Free Korean War Prisoners is utilized to obtain the names of possible recruits.

Literature and membership application forms are mailed to those who write to national Minutemen headquarters. To attract youth, high school and college students are offered a cut-rate fee to join and are assessed dues of only \$1 per month as compared to the regular monthly dues of \$2.

D. Caliber

A number of Minutemen are persons of questionable character and responsibility, despite the fact that DePugh claims that his organization is more concerned with the quality of membership than with quantity, because "we are training future military leaders." According to DePugh, only 10 per cent of the population of the country would qualify as sufficiently patriotic, conservative, dedicated, and self-sacrificing for Minutemen membership. In August, 1964, he claimed that 7,000 members had been "weeded out" in the previous year for failure to measure up to Minutemen standards.

VIII. LEADERSHIP

A. Robert Bolivar DePugh

DePugh is the "national coordinator" of the Minutemen, its driving force, and its sole spokesman. A former associate believes that DePugh runs the Minutemen entirely by himself with possibly some assistance from members of his family.

Evidence suggests that DePugh has a psychopathic personality. Perhaps the best explanation for his views, behavior, and activities can be found in the reason for his honorable discharge for disability from the United States Army in August, 1944. He was then 21 years old and had served 21 months. The Certificate of Discharge for Disability contains this diagnosis of DePugh: "Psychoneurosis, mixed type, severe. Manifested by anxiety and depressive features and schizoid personality.

Soldier is unable to perform duty due to anxiety, nervousness, and mental depression. This condition is chronic and for three years has been attended with vague auditory hallucinations and mild ideas of reference."*

Additional light is cast on DePugh's mentality by his plans for a Utopian society. A former employee has stated that whenever DePugh described his scheme for this new society, he became extremely intense

*The term "mild ideas of reference" implies that DePugh thought people were talking about him.

and irrational. According to this source, the new society envisioned by DePugh would have DePugh as its leader, assisted by a cabinet of 20 men. The society would consist of two classes: a group of professional people, such as doctors, lawyers, and scientists, and another group comprising all others.

In addition, DePugh was reportedly contemplating the invention of a magic drug which he would use to inoculate his aides and all members of the two classes, thereby enabling him to exercise absolute control over everyone. He was also considering the invention of another drug to immunize himself against the drug applied to the other members of his society.

DePugh was born April 15, 1923, in Independence, Missouri. He attended several colleges and universities, but is not known to have received a degree.

After enlisting in the Army on December 1, 1942, he was assigned Serial Number 17 175 190 and served as a radar repairman until his discharge on August 31, 1944. He saw no foreign service. His character and efficiency ratings ranged from satisfactory to excellent.

Following the war, DePugh worked for pharmaceutical and other concerns in the Midwest for several years. In 1954, he started his own veterinary pharmaceutical manufacturing company. It failed. However, his second attempt, several years later, was successful. His firm, the Biolab

Corporation, of which he is president, is located in Norborne, Missouri.

DePugh had moved to Norborne from Independence, Missouri, about 1959.

In 1962, DePugh and several others formed a firm known as the Animal Drug Products Company, of Chicago, but this concern was dissolved by mutual agreement a year later.

DePugh is married and has six children. He is a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association and claims to be a member of the American Legion.

In a special bulletin issued in May, 1964, to Minutemen members, DePugh announced that he was "resigning," for he believed that he could no longer be of value as national coordinator, because his telephone was tapped, his mail intercepted, and he was under surveillance. He added that there would be no public announcement, so he could still be useful by acting as a decoy and diverting attention from the new headquarters of the Minutemen which had been established under the name "American Freedom Rallies," Box 1195, Kansas City, Missouri. Despite his announced intention to resign, there is no indication that DePugh has ever done so.

B. Other Leaders

In 1964, the Minutemen was reported to have the following four "regional coordinators":

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Eastern: Milton Kellogg, Syracuse, New York
Central: John Blumer, Ballwin, Missouri
Western: Delwyn Myers, Tucson, Arizona
Pacific: Troy Houghton, San Diego, California

The caliber of Minutemen leaders is typified by Troy Houghton, Houghton, who is 32 years old, has an extensive arrest record in southern California dating back to 1948. The charges include suspicion of burglary, auto theft, tampering, indecent exposure, and traffic violations.

Houghton has been described as an emotionally unstable person. While acting as Pacific coordinator of the Minutemen, Houghton was arrested in San Diego, in November, 1961, as an unregistered sex offender. As a result of the unfavorable publicity which accompanied this incident and Houghton's previous arrest record, DePugh is supposed to have ordered the Minutemen in California to disband and Houghton to resign. Apparently, however, DePugh later reinstated Houghton and reactivated the Minutemen in California.

DePugh admitted in November, 1964, that he is having a difficult time keeping the Minutemen intact, because various units and leaders within the organization have a tendency to splinter off and go their separate ways. Richard Lauchli, Jr., onetime leader of the Minutemen in the Illinois-eastern Missouri area, is a good illustration of this. He left the Minutemen in October, 1962, to form his own vigilante organization--the "Counter-Insurgency

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Council." As previously mentioned, shortly after DePugh's Minutemen was formed in 1960, Lauchli merged his "Minutemen of Illinois" with DePugh's group.

Minutemen leaders past and present, have one common denominator: they have all manifested and exhibited paranoiac anticommunist sentiments. They have been obsessed with a monumental fear of the peril of communism--domestic and international--and the inevitability of a communist take-over of the United States in the not too distant future.

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IX. ORGANIZATION

A. National Headquarters

National headquarters of the Minutemen are located in the offices of DePugh's Biolab Corporation in Norborne, Missouri, a farming community of 965 persons located 50 miles northeast of Kansas City, Missouri. The Minutemen's mailing address is Box 68, Norborne.

DePugh has denied that the Minutemen has any national headquarters, insisting that Norborne is only the site of an "information center" staffed with some secretaries, who keep in touch with the local units.

B. Structure

The Minutemen is an extremely loose-knit organization, to say the least. The fact is, in its organizational structure and in its chain of command, the Minutemen appears to exist largely on paper.

The chain of command, both upward and downward, is nebulous, perhaps on the theory that it is the nature of guerrilla units to function independently. DePugh, as the "national coordinator," is the top official. He is "chairman" of the "national executive council," reputedly composed of the other nine original Minutemen founders who serve in an advisory capacity. Under DePugh are the four "regional" or "area coordinators."

Communications and directives issued by DePugh have referred to a number of "departments"--"Administration," "Recruiting," "Training,"

"Finances," "Communications," "Supply," "Security," "Sabotage,"

"Intelligence," and "Propaganda"--each headed by a "director."

Similarly, DePugh has mentioned "Sections" B, D, E, F, and H--each also led by a "director"--as well as a "Network 6." The significance of these sections and this network is not known, but in all likelihood they--as well as the many so-called "departments"--are nothing but phantom designations.

The Minutemen is divided into autonomous "bands," the smallest and basic organizational unit. Organizationally, these bands are supposed to operate independently of each other and, to a great extent, of any central organization. Bands are comprised of six to 12 members headed by a "band leader."

A Minutemen band leader in North Carolina recently described his function and duties. His band consists of six men who share an interest in guns and hunting. They have agreed that in the event of a communist take-over of the United States, they will disappear into the mountains and operate as a guerrilla group. Their aim, he pointed out, is to operate in the manner of the underground armies which fought the Nazis in France and Norway during World War II.

According to this band leader, band members and leaders are acquainted only with members of their own band as a security

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precaution in case of capture by the enemy. This band leader reports to no one above him except the Minutemen's national headquarters in Norborne, Missouri.

X. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

A. General

DePugh seems to be as addicted to excessive secrecy as he is to extravagant statements, for he has devised and adopted elaborate security measures in an effort to safeguard the operations of the Minutemen and the identities of its members. Whether or not the organization and its members actually adhere to such complex and extensive precautions is doubtful because of the loose organization of the Minutemen and its undisciplined membership.

B. Membership

Secrecy of membership is maintained mainly for the purpose of preventing communists, in the event of a communist seizure of the country, from coming into possession of a list of prime suspects to be liquidated. Another reason for this secrecy is to protect members from public exposure.

Each new member is assigned a code number by national headquarters, and members are instructed to sign all communications or reports by writing out in full their membership number, as, for instance, Five Hundred Eighty-nine.

An individual member knows no more than a handful of other members--those in his own band, plus perhaps a few others with whom

he may have participated in guerrilla-training maneuvers. Even DePugh asserts that he does not know the identities of as many as 10 per cent of the members and that the regional coordinators know no more than 10 to 20 per cent of the members under their command.

Membership of the Minutemen consists theoretically of four groups or classes, described as "General," "Secure," "Secret," and "Top Secret." "General" members are those who have been identified publicly or by law enforcement agencies as Minutemen. "Secure" members are those not known as members but who are generally known as "patriots." "Secret" members are those who have concealed their political beliefs. "Top Secret" members are those who profess to be "liberal" for the purpose of infiltrating "enemy" organizations.

Members are warned to be careful in making contact with members in a category different from theirs. For example, "Top Secret" members are to be exceedingly circumspect in their contacts and communication with "General" or "Secure" members. Each member is to respect the security of every other member. Under no circumstances is one member to identify another member even to other members without the expressed permission of that member.

Members have been admonished to take a number of precautions. They have been directed to obtain a job that allows considerable free time,

hide cash in some secure place, refrain from loose talk that labels one a "fear monger" or "racist," and avoid being tied down by home ownership.

It has been reported that membership records of the Minutemen are kept in a novel manner so as to prevent them from being perused by unauthorized persons. According to one account, the records are maintained on microfilm in a self-destructing container. Another version is that the records have been treated with a chemical mixture that causes them to disintegrate when exposed to normal air.

C. Communications

Mailings are decentralized to obviate the maintenance of a master mailing list. For security purposes, DePugh has resorted to a number of mailing addresses for the Minutemen in addition to those of the national Minutemen headquarters, Box 68, Norborne, Missouri, and the Minutemen front, the Committee to Free Korean War Prisoners, 613 East Alton Street, Independence, Missouri.

DePugh is known to have used, in the past year, the following mailing addresses: "Norborne Chemical Company," Box 85, Norborne, Missouri; "Delta Chemical Company," Box 341, Sedalia, Missouri; "American Freedom Rallies," Box 1195, Kansas City, Missouri; and Boxes 115 and 172, Independence, Missouri.

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In a "Special Bulletin" dated October 23, 1964, DePugh notified the membership that the following mailing addresses were no longer secure and hence should not be used: Box 341, St. Joseph, Missouri; Box 281, Independence, Missouri; Box 1305, Topeka, Kansas; Box 178, Carrollton, Missouri; Box 1706, Kansas City, Missouri; and Box 4718, Detroit, Michigan.

DePugh frequently utilizes the code number "551" in issuing personal directives and other communications to the membership. The notation, "From 551," appears in the upper left-hand corner of page one of such communications.

The "directors" of all Minutemen "departments" have code numbers: "Security" (0000), "Administration" (0101), "Recruiting" (0202), "Training" (0303), "Finances" (0404), "Supply" (0505), "Communications" (0606), "Intelligence" (0707), "Propaganda" (0808), and "Sabotage" (0909).

D. Practical Measures

All new Minutemen are sent a list of practical or basic security measures to be followed. New members are instructed to use some opaque material, such as tin foil or carbon paper, inside envelopes to insure that their mail is not being read by infrared cameras. Envelopes are not to bear return addresses. Letters are to be mailed from corner mail boxes or from post offices where the member is not known. Mailing addresses are to be changed frequently.

New members are told to be circumspect on the telephone and to check their lines of communication by sending occasional false messages to make certain they are not being intercepted. Minutemen are warned to guard against surveillances while going to meetings and making contacts with other members.

All records and correspondence are to be maintained in code, if possible, and kept carefully hidden in such a manner as to permit hasty destruction. Minutemen are also cautioned to learn as much as possible about prospective recruits in order to make certain that none is an infiltrator.

To confuse people as to their real political sentiments, new members are instructed to subscribe to one or more "left-wing" periodicals or get on the mailing list of some communist front organization. Those who are publicly known as Minutemen are told they may consider it advisable to spread the rumor that they have become disillusioned by the "right wing" or pretend a gradual loss of interest in the Minutemen.

DePugh has counseled members on what to do when questioned by the FBI or any other Government agency. He has admonished them to deny membership, to talk as little as possible, and not to be trapped into making damaging admissions.

E. Front Organization

A front organization called the Committee to Free Korean War Prisoners is used by the Minutemen as a source of additional funds and potential recruits. Its "chairman" is Al Summerford.

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The address of this front is given as 613 East Alton Street, Independence, Missouri. This is also the address of a printing establishment known as the Independence Secretarial and Printing Service. Summerford, who is a member of the Minutemen, is employed here as a full-time printer of Minutemen literature. Summerford also uses the printing equipment to print pamphlets and literature for the Committee to Free Korean War Prisoners.

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XI. FUNDS

The Minutemen is financed by membership fees, dues, contributions, and the sale of literature, augmented by whatever funds are raised by the Minutemen front organization, the Committee to Free Korean War Prisoners.

Membership fee for the Minutemen is \$5. Dues are \$2 per month or \$24 per year. The annual subscription rate for "On Target" is \$5. One-third of the dues payments is to remain with the band leader, one-third is to be sent to the regional coordinator, and one-third is to be forwarded to the national executive council.

Each member is expected to buy his own gun, ammunition, and other equipment and supplies. During training sessions, new members are expected to purchase specified books and subscribe to certain magazines. Special schools cost extra.

Minutemen leaders are not paid, because their services are strictly voluntary.

In a "Special Bulletin" dated October 23, 1964, DePugh admitted that the Minutemen was financially in "desperate circumstances." DePugh complained that the amount of money forwarded to the national headquarters had "slowed to a trickle." He urged, therefore, that all dues be collected and forwarded as soon as possible.

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Any deficit incurred in the operations of the Minutemen is undoubtedly made up by DePugh from whatever profits he derives from his Biolab Corporation. DePugh's office staff not only handles the business operations of his pharmaceutical company, but also takes care of the correspondence, filing, et cetera, for the Minutemen.

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XII. DANGER POTENTIAL

As we have seen, the Minutemen constantly warns and preaches about the inevitability of a violent showdown between the forces of communism and freedom in the United States. Minutemen believe that the communists have virtually gained control of the country already.

The Minutemen is composed of individualistic, undisciplined, often fanatical members. There are no obvious restraints against irrational interpretation by members of the exhortations and instructions of their leaders. The propensity for reckless, violent action--including assassination--does exist in the ranks of the Minutemen.

An overzealous or mentally unbalanced member or adherent could conceivably be inspired by Minutemen gospel to commit and justify--in the name of patriotism--almost any act. For this reason, DePugh's quasi-military organization--despite its infinitesimal size--constitutes a potential threat to government authority and to law and order.

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